

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 1, 2, and 12 have been amended. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to include all the limitations of claims 8 and 17, respectively, for the purpose of allowance. Claim 2 has been amended to properly track claim 1. No new matter was added as a result. Claims 7-8, 17, and 20-21 have been canceled.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-6, 12, 13, 15, 16, and 20 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baumgartner, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2004/0113524) in view of Shen, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,536,958) and Amano (U.S. Patent No. 7,032,454). Claims 7 and 14 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baumgartner, et al. in view of Shen, et al., Amano, and Van Kraukauer, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,617,283). Claims 9-11, 18, 19, and 21 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baumgartner, et al. in view of Shen, et al., Amano, and Wagner, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,430,595).

The Examiner stated that claims 8 and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. (Office Action, page 7). Independent claims 1 and 12 have been amended to incorporate all the limitations of claims 8 and 17, respectively. Accordingly, claims 1 and 12 are allowable for at least this reason. Claims 2-6 and 9-11 depend, directly or indirectly, from allowable claim 1 and, therefore, are allowable for at least this reason. Claims 13-16 and 18-19 depend, directly or indirectly, from allowable claim 12 and, therefore, are allowable for at least this reason.

Claims 20-21 have been canceled, rendering the respective rejections moot.

CONCLUSION:

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seeks early allowance thereof. If for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the application but believes that an interview would be helpful to resolve any issues, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at (650) 694-5810 or Craig Summerfield at (312) 321-4726.

PLEASE MAIL CORRESPONDENCE TO: Respectfully submitted,

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